

June 13, 1966

Dear Fairy Godmother Sally,

It'll be wonderful if Randon House gets interested. They broke their contract with Leo Sauvage for a book that says much less, and they said they liked mine, but declined it because I am "unknown", a formula that would effectively end the book business if universally applied. I sent Barbara Epstein one of the very first copies, for I'd phoned her last time I was in New York and she said they'd review. It went out either the night of the ninth or the morning of the tenth. I've heard nothing, and I spoke to Ellsworth at ABA and he said he didn't know, he thought something was up it would be improper for him to mention, and that nothing could be done until the end of July at the earliest. I asked of him (as I did of Solotaroff in a polite note) that I be given just a chance to stand on my own feet. I also spoke to a young woman in their ABA booth. (Book Week)

If Miss Epstein has a personal interest in the Oswald case, I certainly hope she reads my book, for Epstein's essential complaint is how the Commission proved Oswald ~~wrong~~ "guilty", and he spells it out that they did and that Oswald was guilty. Epstein's is an important book because it quotes the Commission members and staff. It contributes nothing else except a formula acceptable to a timid publisher.

Nice letter from Aronson before you spoke to him. I suggested he ask you to review, told him of the copy and note to your dad and expressed the hope he could do it fast, for now that I've got the books out, not only to have the printer to pay still, but the stores must be encouraged to carry them and then people to buy them and then the book can also perhaps do some good. Much of it is elliptical, but I'm confident you understand much that isn't explicit.

If there were any way of suggesting to Book Week that they let Godwin make up his mind whether he includes mine, I'd be happy to run that risk. God knows I've had so many acid tests I'm all alkaline now. Some day I'll tell you just what they were. But Book Week had my book before Epstein's was even announced. It would seem to me that one close to Kennedy might want to read mine for what it spells out that Epstein's doesn't. There is, further, a hazard in giving prominence to some of the error in Inquest, of both fact and line. His information came from the staff lawyers, not from his own research, and the opinions he gives for fact are theirs, and they have their own positions to justify.

On page vi of the Preface there is reference to two British publishers. In confidence, the first is Gollancz and the second Deutsch. I'd spoke to Deutsch more than a year ago at the IBA 11th-ennial in Washington. ~~xx~~ Leslie Frewin turned it down only because he felt the hardback market in England would pay for but one, and he couldn't beat Lane. Collins had an interest more than a year ago until they had Sparrow read it. Like in the fairy tale, he killed Cock Robin. Eight others, unknown to me, declined when the Baroness Budberg (who believes letters should never have been invented; I never got one from her, though she tried hard for me) had it. Present agent seems like real decent guy. Gordon Harbord, 53 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2. Sunday Observer was real hot for secondary and asked them of Frewin when he had book. Nothing from them since. Daily Mail man today told me the book fascinated him and that he had sent it

off to his editor. Paris-Match correspondent Philippe de Bausest was here for two hours Saturday p.m. taking the kind of pictures I'd expect of LIFE, but we let him take what he wanted. He'd spent three hours the day before. They plan a story on both books and authors next week, but he said of every five stories he writes, four are for the wastebasket. There may be other interest in France. I should know soon. Do you know if Gallimard plans Lane's? Or if not, who?

I'll send another to Russell. I asked the agent to, and someone a week ago said he would, but you are right, I'd better spend the extra \$2.66. One will go off tomorrow. And I'll write Terkel soon. I expect a Chitrib review. Cromie was very nice to me at ABA. In fact, he asked me to autograph the copy. The agent seems to feel he has reached a dead end, as you put it, so I've been working on making a gate for him, and I think it'll happen soon. Reuters gave as an excuse for filing nothing the lack of a US press, inferring if the US papers didn't think it worth a story, why should the British. Friday I confronted the pleasant bureau chief with the press I've had, of which he was at least to a degree aware, said "I've met your test; how's 'bout the story." He smiled, said okay, and at that point I gave him a full predigested newspaper page largely on the autopsy. It took his breath for only a moment. By the time he'd placed everything, with a note, on the reporter's desk he was breathing freely and I got the impression it was not British courtesy that impelled him to escort me to the door! But I do expect the story, and he was friendly and took no offense at my audacity, which really wasn't audacity anyway. I had to, for there should be an immediate paperback market in England and I can lend whoever might do it the negatives from which any decent plant can give him 5,000 copies in less than a week - in two days if he wants to and it is a modern plant. Also, Harbord had written me that two publishers, Mayflower and Harrap and Somebody were interested but thought nobody else is. So, I've got to show them there is interest.

I met Willentz, he said he'd carry the book, and I put his hand into that of his distributor, who is also mine, and said, while everybody laughed, "Mr. Dimondstein, take his order." They just happened to be together in the lobby. Dimondstein has 500. Wilentz told me of East Village Other, and I asked a friend to speak to them in a letter that went out that night because I didn't have time to write them a special letter. I really have stayed busy. No response from Village Voice, to whom I did send one some time ago.

There is no such thing as small beans. This is an unusual format, and while the sales are good in DC, there may be resistance to the form. Not only do I have the printing bill to pay, but I've a tremendous investment I have to get back, an unbelievable one, and I am determined the book will also do a job, and all of this requires everything I can do. So don't think anything is too small. I've agreed to address Rotarjs, today a faculty-student coffee at the U of Md. (where the invitation was because with the students away their bookstore sold 10 copies, to everyone's surprise and my disappointment. I thought the faculty would take more. But they asked me to bring at least 50 copies for autographing, which is very nice, considering they make two bucks on each they sell that I do not.... One to Lynd will also go out in the a.m. I'm staying home, I think, tomorrow, to get some letters done and a little more writing. Twixt all of this I've continued my investigating and have shockers as great as are in the book. Did a 6,000 word piece for a planned series of four than I may expend into a sequel (although all this work with the book sopped work on a different non-organic sequel I think will excite you) for which I have already laid the necessary base. I'll see evidence seen by none but the Commission Wednesday, I've got documentary proof of both suppression and who suppressed and who has and had what was suppressed, more and even more serious on disappearance of photographic evidence and lots more. A pitch has already been made to a French agency, with a copy of this piece (which Jerry, from whose name, alas, the "n" was unfortunately dropped, also has). So does Gervasi, at Viking, to whom I suggested its appearance would help the Epstein book, which is both weak and in error in that

section (autopsy) and to pull the teeth of the coming LOOK clobber.

Made a ~~half-hour~~ tape today for a next week Mike Wallace radio show. It is a half-hour interview by George Herman, who has been very decent. Don't know when it will be used. Reaction to the five interviews on WTOP has been strong, with the station's talk programs getting calls I didn't inspire.

I still find it hard to believe such a private "printing" on such a tough subject can get off to such a good start. The more I think of it the more determined I become to do the most with it. I believe Jerry sees that I may have a formula for ~~the~~ those writers with the money, bad judgement of guts to break the monolithic refusal of the publishers to treat some subjects, and the better I can do with this, the more others will be encouraged, and the more publishers may be more inclined to take the next book they fear, for money is a powerful persuader.

But with all this, not a single review yet. However, after I gave the NYTimes ten copies, and after I mailed four, including the one you suggested, I got a letter today from their Book Review, Arline Youngman, saying they sent the copy they got to a reviewer and asking ~~me~~ for one for editorial use. It'll go out in the am, too, especially because they asked for it "as soon as possible". Some time in the future, National Observer will do a story on the books. I tried to talk them into doing the two current ones, but I don't I succeeded, especially because I also told them of Sauvage's book, of which they didn't know, Fred Cook's Nation pieces, etc.

Some day soon I hope there is an invitation to appear on a New York yack program. Maybe then I'll be able to discuss all the things I tried to put into this book that may not have been apparent. Today's Supreme Court decision relates to Part 2, and there is much more in it that Oswald's Legal Rights, important as they are. Inherent in the whole thing is "the crisis in credibility". When the government will so lie about such a thing as the assassination of a President, is there anything they will not lie about? I'm hoping the peace groups will see this. Those I've approached haven't responded (I didn't spell this out to them). Especially do I want to tell you about the sequel for which I have all the notes and on which I had to stop to do this. Please do not spread it, but its title is "A Tiger to Ride". Subtitle: "The Untold Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis". Remember the chapter on the "false Oswald? What I've got for this is both solid and unbelievable.

I come back from Washington tired, get a letter like yours that makes me feel so good, and then I begin to ramble in response, and suddenly I realize there are other letters, so many, many thanks, and keep making all these good suggestions, and instead of saying how about this one or how about that, please tell me how many copies you'd like to have and I'll send them with envelopes. And I'll mail a replacement to Jerry, too....If I forgot to say, the other distributors are A&A, Bookazine, Como Sales, District News (DC area) and Raymar (West Coast). I ~~am~~ to hear from Taplinger. One or two of the major company salesmen are even talking about it!

Do you know anyone at the SEPost? A month ago, anticipating the Supreme Court decision, I suggested Part 2 to John Appleton, now unfortunately no longer there. The reaction then was no smart cookie like Bobby Kennedy would have run such a rotten investigation of his own brother's murder. "Nobody knows Bobby had and has nothing to do with it. But these two chapters fit the decision perfectly, especially because they'll offset the right-wing opposition by showing it was not the defence but the prosecution that would have suffered from the abuses of Oswald's legal rights. I'll write them again tomorrow. I had a chance to get pretty much of the denial of these rights in the program for Mike Wallace, with quite a bit on the interrogations and searches.

Thank you very much. If you don't or can't do the Guardian review, I hope your dad does.

Sincerely,